

Applicants for physician assistant licensure must meet the following requirements:

1. Satisfy the Board that he or she is at least twenty-one (21) years of age and of good moral character.
2. Complete an application for license and submit same to the Board in the manner prescribed by the Board with a recent passport type photograph.
3. Pay the appropriate fee as determined by the Board.
4. Present a certified copy of birth certificate or valid passport.
5. Submit proof of legal change of name if applicable (notarized or certified copy of marriage license or other legal proceeding).
6. Possess a master's degree in a health-related or science field.
7. Successfully complete an educational program for physician assistants accredited by CAAHEP or its predecessor or successor agency.
8. Pass the certification examination administered by the NCCPA and have current NCCPA certification.
9. Provide information on registration or licensure in all other states where the applicant is or has been registered or licensed as a physician assistant.
10. Provide favorable references from two (2) physicians licensed in the United States with whom the applicant has worked or trained.
11. Appear for a personal interview in the office of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, pass the Jurisprudence Examination as administered by the Board, and submit for a criminal background check.
12. No basis or grounds exist for the denial of licensure as provided in Board regulation.

### **Temporary License**

The Board may grant a temporary license to an applicant who meets the qualifications for licensure except that the applicant has not yet taken the national certifying examination administered by the NCCPA or the applicant has taken the national certifying examination and is awaiting the results or the applicant has not obtained a minimum of a master's degree in a health-related or science field.

A temporary license issued upon the basis of the NCCPA not being taken or the applicant awaiting the results is valid:

1. for one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of issuance;
2. until the results of an applicant's examination are available; or
3. until the Board makes a final decision on the applicant's request for licensure, whichever comes first.

The Board may extend a temporary license, upon a majority vote of the Board members, for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days. Under no circumstances may the Board grant more than one extension of a temporary license.

A temporary license may be issued to an applicant who has not obtained a master's degree so long as the applicant can show proof of enrollment in a master's program that will, when completed, meet the master's degree requirement. The temporary license will be valid no longer than one (1) year, and may not be renewed.

### **Requirement of Protocol - Prescribing/Dispensing**

Physician assistants shall practice according to a Board-approved protocol which has been mutually agreed upon by the physician assistant and the supervising physician. Each protocol shall be prepared taking into consideration the specialty of the supervising physician, and must outline diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and categories of pharmacologic agents which may be ordered, administered, dispensed and/or prescribed for patients with diagnoses identified by the physician assistant. Each protocol shall contain a detailed description of back-up coverage if the supervising physician is away from the primary office. Although licensed, no physician assistant shall practice until a duly executed protocol has been approved by the Board.

Except as provided below, physician assistants may not write prescriptions for or dispense controlled substances or any other drug having addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability. A physician assistant may, however, administer such medications pursuant to an order by the supervising physician if in the protocol.

#### **Prescribing Controlled Substances and Medications by Physician Assistants**

1. **Scope**

Pursuant to these regulations, authorized physician assistants may prescribe controlled substances in Schedules II through V.

2. **Application for Authority to Prescribe Controlled Substances**

- a. Physician assistant applicants applying for controlled substance prescriptive authority must complete a Board approved educational program prior to making application.
- b. In order to obtain the authority to prescribe controlled substances in any schedule, the physician assistant shall submit an application approved by the Board and a letter of need signed by the supervising physician.

3. **Incorporation of Physician Regulations Pertaining to Prescribing, Administering and Dispensing of Medication**

For the purpose of directing the manner in which physician assistants may prescribe controlled substances, the Board incorporates Chapter 25 of the Board's Regulations *Pertaining to Prescribing, Administering and Dispensing of Medication* as applied to physicians, including but not limited to all Definitions, Maintenance of Records and Inventories, Use of Diet Medication, Use of Controlled Substances for Chronic (Non-Terminal) Pain, and Prescription Guidelines. All physician assistants authorized to prescribe controlled substances shall fully comply with these regulations.

4. **Registration for Controlled Substances Certificate Prescriptive Authority**

- a. Every physician assistant authorized to practice in Mississippi who prescribes any controlled substance must be registered with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration in compliance with Title 21 CFR Part 1301 Food and Drugs.
- b. Pursuant to authority granted in Mississippi Code, Section 41-29-125, the Board hereby adopts, in lieu of a separate registration with the Board, the registration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration as required in Section 502.4.a. above, provided, however, where a physician assistant already possesses a controlled substances registration certificate for a practice location in another state or jurisdiction, the physician assistant may not transfer or otherwise use the same registration until he or

she meets the training requirements set forth in Section 502.2.a. In the event, however, a physician assistant has had limitations or other restrictions placed upon his or her license wherein he or she is prohibited from handling controlled substances in any or all schedules, said physician assistant shall be prohibited from registering with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration for a Uniform Controlled Substances Registration Certificate without first being expressly authorized to do so by order of the Board.

- c. The registration requirement set forth in these regulations does not apply to the distribution and manufacture of controlled substances. Any physician who engages in the manufacture or distribution of controlled substances or legend drugs shall register with the Mississippi State Board of Pharmacy pursuant to Mississippi Code, Section 73-21-105. For the purposes herein, "distribute" shall mean the delivery of a drug other than by administering, prescribing, or dispensing. The word "manufacture" shall have the same meaning as set forth in Mississippi Code, Section 73-21-105(q).

5. **Drug Maintenance, Labeling and Distribution Requirements**

Persons registered to prescribe controlled substances may order, possess, prescribe, administer, distribute or conduct research with those substances to the extent authorized by their registration and in conformity with the other provisions of these regulations and in conformity with provisions of the Mississippi Uniform Controlled Substances Law, Mississippi Code, Sections 41-29-101 et. seq., except physician assistants may not receive samples of controlled substances. A physician assistant may receive and distribute pre-packaged medications or samples of non-controlled substances for which the physician assistant has prescriptive authority.